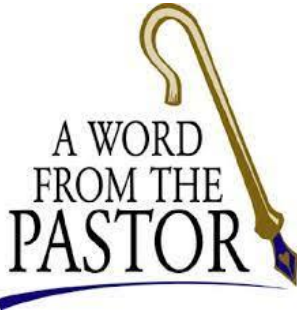




THE BEACON

March 2025

"Let your light shine before others"



Is that all there is
Is that all there is?
If that's all there is my friends
Then let's keep dancing
Let's break out the booze and
have a ball
If that's all there is

Often, as the season of Lent approaches, I remember these lyrics, sung by Peggy Lee in 1969. The music is a bit like a funeral dirge, and the words of the song find nothing more than disappointment with life.

The lyrics feel a bit like the curse on Adam and Eve after removal from the Garden. God says to Adam, "In toil you shall eat of [the ground] all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you... By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Born out of dust – toil – to dust return. Is that all there is?

In the book of Ecclesiastes, we find a similar frustration about life as the song by Peggy Lee, with an outlook that can't seem to rise above meaninglessness and disappointment: "Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had spent in doing it, and again, all was vanity and a chasing after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun."

In the church season of Lent, we are called on to reexamine our faith and remember again that our true meaning, our ultimate meaning in life, cannot be found without knowing ourselves in God. This human predicament experienced by every generation can only know freedom and a way by the grace of God.

May your Lenten journey bring you closer to Christ, as we make our way toward Jerusalem and the cross; his gift of himself for all humankind.

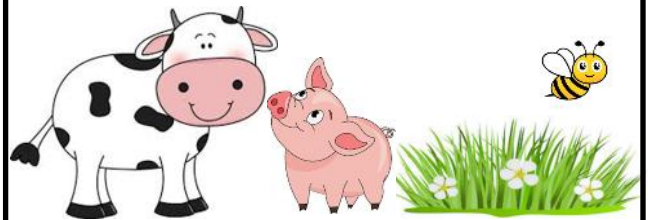
Ash + Wednesday

An Ash Wednesday evening service will be held here at St. Peter's Pikeland, on March 5th at 7:30 pm.

Communion will be served, and the imposition of ashes will be offered to those who would like to receive it.

This service marks the beginning of the season of Lent.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS 2025 HEIFER FAIR SUNDAY



MARCH 30

See Page 2 for more information!

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

Don't forget to turn your clocks one hour **forward** before going to bed on Saturday March 8th.



JOLLY QUIZZES

answers on page 5

- 1-Who was President when War of 1812 was declared
- 2-who saved the famous Geo Washington painting from burning
- 3-a decisive Battle of Lake Erie was fought. Who was the Captain
b-what famous words did he say
- 4-In 1932 this US landmark froze solid
- 5- These 4 words have no rhyming words
- 6-the song "Rock around the Clock" was used in what Movie?
Wild Ones, Rebel w/o a Cause or Blackboard Jungle
- 7- Name the sport where neither the participant, nor the spectators
know what the score is nor who is winning, until it is over
- 8-what is the color of the airplane 'black box'
- 9-what is a Camels Hair brush made from



Souper Bowl Sunday



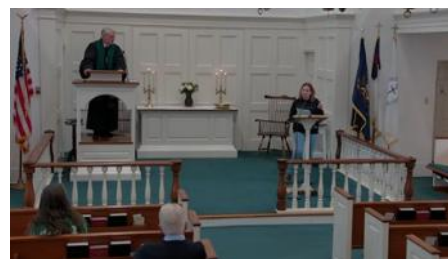
Worship on Sunday, February 16th was a little different, as we celebrated the Super Bowl win by the Eagles. Many wore

Eagles gear or something from their favorite team, including Penn State.

The sermon was also different, with Maureen Wookey and Pastor Doug presenting a dialogue sermon. Of course, in all of it, the Good News was woven into the morning's message.

For our Souper Bowl Sunday, many cans of soup and other items were brought to help the Sewing Circle's food drive.

At our fellowship time, Valentine's Day was also celebrated. Thank you to Wendy Sherman. And Jackie Warner created some Eagles cupcakes, adding decorated marshmallows as the head of an eagle.



ONLINE giving

We are excited to tell you we have a new online giving platform for St. Peter's Pikeland UCC. Hold your phone's camera over this QR code, press the yellow button that says "myamplify.io" and you can give online, anytime, with your cellphone.



All online giving will still be confirmed in your offering statement. This is a very easy way to give to St. Peter's.

This QR code will be in the Sunday bulletin each week as well.

SPRING CLEAN UP

Calling all willing and abled bodies to join us on Saturday, March 29th for our annual Spring Clean Up!

We will gather at 8:00 am at the church to spruce up the grounds and get ready for Spring!

Please bring rakes, shovels, tarps, leaf blowers and whatever else you think might make the work go better!



In Need of....

Camphill/Kimberton is looking for a table that seats 12 with low backed chairs, - & a living room seating set of wood framed couch & chairs.

Have one in your basement or barn?~ then contact Wayne Freese 610-827-7581

Sewing Circle News



Hoagie and Bakeless Bake Sale

Sunday March 2nd is the last day we will be taking orders for Foresta's delicious hoagies!

Your support is much needed and always appreciated.

Hoagies will be available to pick up during Social Hour on Sunday, March 9th.



PACS Food Drive Extended

We will be collecting food and non-essentials through March 9th now.

Thank you to everyone who so graciously contributed to our Winter Food Drive for PACS!

If you prefer not to shop and still want to participate see Kathleen Wachsmuth or Kathy Krasley for making a cash donation and we will do the shopping for you.

They cannot accept open/expired food or glass containers.

Look for PACS list of items most needed here, hanging in the church and Fellowship Hall.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| * Condiments | * Instant Mashed Potatoes | * Deodorant |
| * Cooking Oil | * Mac and Cheese | * Shampoo |
| * Coffee and Tea | * Pancake mix & Syrup | * Hand soap |
| * Canned Pasta | * Gravy | * Body wash |
| * Sugar | * Canned Fruit | * Conditioner |
| * Shelf-stable non-dairy milk | * Granola Bars | * Sanitary Pads and tampons |
| * Spices | * Instant Oatmeal | * Toilet paper |
| * Salad Dressing | * Cereal | * Dish Soap |
| * Jelly | * Breadcrumbs | * Bleach |
| * Juice | * Grits | * White vinegar |
| * Flour | * Hot Chocolate | * Hypoallergenic Laundry detergent |
| * Soup | * Stuffing | * Diapers |
| * Canned Meats | * Bottled Water | * Formula (ex: Similac) |

Heifer Project Gift Fair

Its Heifer Project time! Each spring St Peter's Pikeland United Church of Christ holds a fair in support of Heifer Project International. **This year, Heifer Sunday is March 30, 2025.**

Solving the problem of world hunger is a heartfelt vision of many people but the sheer magnitude of the problem has overwhelmed agencies.

Heifer Project International (HPI), is the outgrowth of one man with a vision and a practical method of implementation that did not require inordinate financial underwriting. After serving as a relief worker in the Spanish Civil War in 1936 Dan West observed that there was no way to bring enough food to the children of Spain fast enough to address the depravation that surrounded him daily. Mr West's concept was to bring cows to Spain to produce milk and to give a cow to a family with the stipulation that its offspring must be given to another family who would in turn give a calf to yet another family! And so on and so on!

HPI started in 1942 with the first shipment of heifers delivered to Puerto Rico in 1944.

Animals are delivered to communities all around the globe. The species are selected to serve the environment and the needs of the community. In Honduras beekeeping has brought multiple benefits to a community. The bees pollinate crops and other flowering plants. They produce honey which is sold to the local population. In addition sub industries have emerged that include a wax producing factory, hive manufacturing and honey processing factories all from one gift of a beehive.

These farmers build human bridges between communities by passing knowledge, courage and dignity. It is a success story from our local generosity and kindness. You can participate by supporting the Heifer Project at St Peter's Pikeland United Church of Christ March 30, 2025. Your contributions fight hunger and poverty around the world and changes peoples lives.

Contributions to support Heifer can be made through offerings or at the Living Gift Market table in Fellowship Hall on March 30, 2025. No Fair this year but we will have the Living Gift Market table at Fellowship Hall after services.

The Living Gift Market is a chance to change the lives of people. The gifts you can purchase include food and income producing animals like goats, bees, chicks and heifers. The animals go to hungry, rural families around the world including the USA who are working to improve their lives. Heifer Project also provides the training in care of the animals and in enhancing the environment. The gifts are matched to each local environment.

Each Market gift gives over and over. Your gift of an animal and training to an impoverished family impacts the entire rural community. That family shares its knowledge and the animal's first offspring with another family. And that family shares. And the next and the next! In all this you find the gift of peace, the gift of time and the gift of gratitude.

So help a great cause, helping people to help themselves!

Find a gift animal for that special someone!

See you Sunday March 30, 2025.



St. Peter's Concert Series

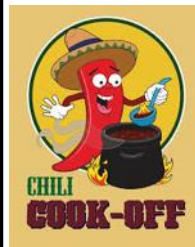
On Saturday, February 8th, the St. Peter's Concert Series hosted the trio Irish band, The Rookery. This terrific trio entertained an audience of over 40 people as they played their traditional Irish music.

A nice time of fellowship was enjoyed afterwards while concert goers got to talk with the band.

Thank you Kat Bowman, for setting up yet another great concert!



CHILI COOK OFF- MARCH 22



Calling all Chili fans!
The Chili Cook-off will be on Saturday, March 22nd at 6 PM. Proceeds benefit St. Peter's missions. Chili cookers will need to bring an extension cord.

Donations (suggested \$8/pp) for one voting ticket and all you can eat chili.

Additional Voting Ticket Costs - 1 ticket \$2, 3 tickets for \$5, and Arm length for \$8. Besides chili cookers we will also need donations for water, iced tea and desserts.

Sign Up Sheet will be in Fellowship Hall or email Maureen Wookey at: mwookey17@hotmail.com.

CEMETERY ROLE CHANGES



This to let you know that St. Peter's Pikeland UCC has a newly appointed Cemetery Manager. As per January 1, 2025, Herman Nieuwenhuizen succeeded Wayne Freese, who has carried out the role of Cemetery Manager for some 9 years. We cannot thank Wayne enough for the tremendous job he did in organizing and maintaining the church's cemetery as well as, the support and advice he extended to so many members and non-members of the church. While Herman Nieuwenhuizen took over the management responsibilities regarding the church's cemetery, Wayne will remain involved in the church's cemetery work.

Again, many thanks to Wayne Freese for his dedication and support to the work of St. Peter's Pikeland UCC. Also, we wish Herman Nieuwenhuizen success in his new role.

PACS GUEST

Because of a scheduling conflict in February, Debbie McGinn, Program and Development Coordinator for Phoenixville Area Community Services (PACS), was unable to come speak at our Mission Sunday service. Debbie will be joining us on Sunday, March 2 now.

Debbie will share updates and personal reflections about the dedicated efforts of PACS.

Come and celebrate our long-standing support of their inspiring work!

Since 1972, PACS has aspired to be the lead resource for food insecurity in the community.



Debbie McGinn
Program and Development
Coordinator

DISASTER RELIEF NORTH CAROLINA



Last year portions of western North Carolina, Virginia, and eastern Tennessee were devastated by unprecedented flash flooding from Hurricane Helene. The region is very rural with many small farms. Along with the loss of homes there was a very significant loss of crop land, particularly the most fertile grounds along the riverbeds. Many farmers lost their entire stores of feed and hay with only limited resources available to replenish them. There has been an ongoing need for feed and hay to get the remaining livestock through the winter.

Lila Rose (of the Wise clan) has been coordinating with Rebuilding Hope, Freedom Baptist Church, Ash Harvest Ministries, and Creston Volunteer Fire House to organize donations and supplies. In this regard St. Peter's has once again stepped-up providing aid from our Disaster Fund, donated feed items, and additional special financial gifts. We also received a generous donation of 2 pallets of chicken and goat feed from Oley Valley Feeds.

On February 12th Dave Wise, along with Fred and Andrew Wookey travelled to Hegins, PA to pick up a load of donated hay that Lila had been trying to get delivered since Oct. We then headed out to Altoona to rally up with a caravan to load additional feed and building materials before heading south.

Neither rain nor snow and ice kept us from our appointed journey. We endured having to fix my truck along the way using zip ties, and travelling over mountain passes marked as not suitable for trucks and trailers. (Missed the sign before I took that particular road!)

We arrived at the farm on Feb 13th by travelling up more steep winding dirt mountain roads that the truck barely fit on. The farmer will be using some of the hay and sharing some with his neighbors. In his case their house was spared by the floods, but he lost his leased grounds. What grounds that were not washed away are now covered with debris, rocks, washed down trees etc. It will be some time before remaining grounds are usable again. He has been overwhelmed by the generosity and support of the American people. The donations received are what is keeping their farms viable until they can recover crop land and rebuild supplies.

Once again, a huge thank you to our church family for supporting neighbors in need. It was very gratifying to see the fruits of our efforts and know how much it was appreciated.





Vicki Goodman	3/1
Tom Raichle	3/2
Patrick McCarthy	3/2
Joe Thomson	3/3
Paul McCarthy	3/4
Mackenzie Blue	3/4
Ray Perry	3/4
Scott Raichle	3/5
Charles Garber	3/5
Conner Harlow	3/6
Andrew Dick	3/6
Chad Sproule	3/9
Austin Myers	3/9
Matthew Detwiler	3/12
Ryan Nicholson	3/12
Laurel Wilson	3/14
Claire Wilson	3/14
Virginia Garber	3/15
Trish Cottone	3/16
Charlie Shupe	3/16
Madison Wachsmuth	3/20
James Carnevale	3/21
Dave Zinn	3/23
Ted Bierer	3/25
Dana Montieth	3/26
Barbara Borzillo	3/28
Kat Bowman	3/29
Ken Emery	3/30

COMMITMENT FORMS

Members should have received an email regarding your 2025 Commitment Forms. If you did not receive this e-mail or would like another form, please contact the church office via e-mail or pick a form up at either entrance to the church or Fellowship Hall. The Deacons greatly appreciate these forms so that they can budget accordingly for the year.

Thank you



Bette Miller's Service

On Wednesday, March 19th, at 11:00 am, there will be a memorial service for Bette Miller here at St. Peter's Pikeland.

Bette passed away on January 11th. March 19th would have been the 70th wedding anniversary for her and Bill.



Sunday, April 13:

Palm Sunday; Fisherman's Breakfast, Worship, Easter Egg Hunt

Thursday, April 17: Holy Week Service 7:30 pm

Sunday, April 20: Easter Sunday; 8 a.m Communion Service, 10 a.m Family Service



Find us on:
facebook

Keep up to date on special things here at St. Peter's Pikeland by "liking" us on Facebook

Answers to the Jolly Quiz:

1-James Madison

2-Dolly Madison

3-Oliver Hazzard Perry

3b-"We have met the enemy and they are ours"

4-Niagara Falls

5-silver, orange, purple, month

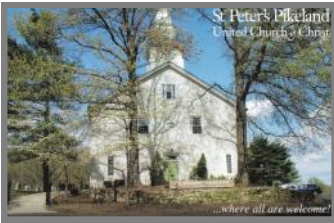
6-Blackboard Jungle

7-Boxing

8-orange

9-mostly squirrel hair, sometime pony , goat

Our Prayer List



Church Staff

Rev. Douglas Hanson,
Pastor

Kat Bowman,
Director of Music and Organist

Jill Cook,
Church Secretary

Deborah Wetty,
Nursery Attendant

Debbie Wolk,
Bookkeeper

Herman Nieuwenhuizen
Cemetery Manager

Church Officers 2025

President of Congregation –
Mark Myers

Secretary of Congregation –
Kathleen Wachsmuth

President of Consistory –
Pete Warner

Secretary of Consistory –
Kathleen Wachsmuth

Elders

Deb Wetty- Chair
Kathleen Wachsmuth, Peter Wilson

Deacons

Herman Nieuwenhuizen– Chair
Sarah Hackman
Pete Warner

Trustees

Dave Wise Jr.- Chair
Bob McClimon
Albert Wachsmuth

Andrea Lafleur

Angie Schlessm

Ann Kieffer, cousin of Eric Johnson

Barbara Broyles, friend of the Wachsmuths

Barbara Shivers

Bill Cochran, friend of Fred and Maureen Wookey

Carol Meyer

Cole Davenport

Connie Hershey, friend of Micki and Alyssa Menkins

Charlie Fishman, Pete Warner's Nephew and Godson

David Richman, friend of Grace Merryman

Debbie Rittenhouse, mother-in-law of Mitchell Warner

Diane, friend of Dee McClimon

Dr. Michael J. Ward

Ernie Gross, cousin of Fred Wookey

Friends and family of Bette Miller

Friends and family of Shirley Detwiler

Gail Grealey, cousin of the Wise family

Gwen Davidson

Heather Murphy, cousin of Steve Krasley

Heidi Kieffer, daughter of Eric Johnson's cousin

Hugh Lawson

Jamie Glennon, friend of Eric Hanson

Jeff Johnson, Co-worker of Eric Johnson

Jennifer Osborne

Jessica G., friend of Grace Merryman

Jim Smith, Denise Harlow's brother

John Pandjak

John Pittock, friend of Grace Merryman

Laura Dick

Laura S., friend of Grace Merryman

Lisa, cousin of Eric Johnson

Mary Andersen, friend of the McCarthys

Melinda Greenwood, cousin of Joe Thomson

Pattie and Charlie Freeman, friends of the Bowman's

Patrick, friend of Dee McClimon

Richard, friend of Dee McClimon

Sally Kramer, Cherri Romano's sister

Sandy Pereni, Joyce Rosen's sister

Sharon Basile, Jennifer Basile's mother-in-law

Sylvia Houff, Kathleen Wachsmuth's sister

Tara Cantello, friend of Denise Harlow

Tina Frick, friend of Sarah Hackman